

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been canceled and new Claims 22-41 submitted. New Claims 22-41 substantially track canceled Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 17; however, the claim language has been amended to refer specifically to feline IL-12 nucleic acids and proteins.

Claims 22 and 29 are drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a feline IL-12 single chain protein. Support for this claim can be found in the specification, for example, on page 30, lines 1-23, through page 31, lines 1-16, and on page 42, lines 9-23, through page 43, lines 1-11.

Claim 23 is drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotide sequences sharing regions of identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such nucleic acid molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 39, lines 17-23, through page 40, lines 1-6.

Claim 24 is drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleic acid sequences having at least 90% identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such nucleic acid molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 45, lines 5-18.

Claims 25 and 31 specify the claimed nucleic acid molecule encode a protein having a particular function. Likewise, Claim 38 specifies the claimed protein have particular functions. Support for such functions can be found in the specification, for example, on page 53, lines 7-23.

Claim 29 is drawn to nucleic acid molecules encoding proteins having regions of identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 56, lines 21-23 through page 60, lines 1-16.

Claim 30 is drawn to nucleic acid molecules encoding proteins having at least 90% identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 56, lines 21-23 through page 60, lines 1-16.

Claim 36 is drawn to an isolated protein sharing regions of identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such proteins can be found in the specification, for example, on page 77, lines 22-23, through page 79, lines 1-7.

Claim 37 is drawn to an isolated protein having at least 90% identity with specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such proteins can be found in the specification, for example, on page 79, lines 20-23, through page 81 lines 1-15.

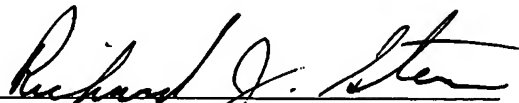
In view of the above-cited support, Applicants contend no new matter has been entered into the Application.

All of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 6, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Stern", written over a horizontal line.

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